

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via its EFS (Electronic Filing System) concurrent with patent application filing papers (which include a Form PTO/SB/08, a copy of an International Search Report, a copy of a Written Opinion, a copy of a Combined Search and Examination Report, and copies of 18 additional reference documents) on the date indicated below:

Date: 7/24/06 By: Kimberly Brattigham

Attorney Docket No.: 102792-616 (11375P6 US)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|              |   |                        |
|--------------|---|------------------------|
| APPLICANT    | : | Francesc AYATS et al.  |
| SERIAL NO.   | : | To Be Assigned         |
| CUSTOMER NO. | : | 27389                  |
| FILED        | : | Herewith               |
| FOR          | : | WATER-SOFTENING METHOD |
| ART UNIT     | : | To Be Assigned         |
| EXAMINER     | : | To Be Assigned         |

---

July 24, 2006

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION (EFS)**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant(s) respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the concurrently-transmitted Form PTO/SB/08.

**I. Timeliness, Fees and Certifications in lieu of Fees**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or within three months of entry into the national stage, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b), consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement does not require a fee or a statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e). However, should the Commissioner determine that a fee is, in fact, due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

## **II. Copies of Listed References**

Copies of all references listed on the concurrently-transmitted Form PTO/SB/08 are being supplied.

Copies of U.S. patents are not included pursuant to Pre-OG Notice dated July 11, 2003.

## **III. Concise Statement of Relevance**

This application is a PCT national stage application, and all references listed on the concurrently-transmitted Form PTO/SB/08 were cited in the specification; or in the International Search Report, and a copy of that search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the International Search Authority, is also being transmitted herewith; or in the Combined Search and Examination Report from The Patent Office in Great Britain, and an English-language version of that search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by that Patent Office, is also being transmitted herewith.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By Andrew N. Parfornak

Andrew N. Parfornak

Reg. No. 32,431

Attorney for Applicant(s)

875 Third Avenue

18<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, New York 10022

(212) 808-0700